

## The Intelligencer.

### The Death of Agassiz.

It would be an easy matter to write at length about this illustrious man whose wonderful career has just closed in death, for he has left behind him material enough to supply a great variety of literary and scientific tastes in the way of biographical sketches. He filled such a space in the world of letters and of science, especially science, as to enable writers to choose at will amongst his discoveries and his theories and to connect his life and labors more or less prominently with any one of them. To the world generally, however, he is known under the broad name of a Scientist, that is, a man whose life was devoted to the investigation of facts, events and phenomena in the physical world, and to the explanation and classification of the causes, principles and laws that governed them. As a Scientist he is known to the educated world as especially famous in geology, botany, zoology and ichthyology, and particularly in the last named science. No Scientist ever before so successfully and exhaustively developed the wonders of the great deep, as regards its myriad forms of life, as AGASSIZ. In this department of knowledge he is without a rival. And yet to read his lectures as published and illustrated in the New York Tribune last winter one could see and feel how deeply impressed he was with that all his attainments, after a life at the widest research and experiment, he only stood on the threshold of knowledge in this and other kindred departments of science. Notwithstanding he told how he had actually evoked and organized life by artificial fecundation, yet he spoke of it as an experiment that was simply an initiatory step in the grand inquiry upon which he would like to enter of discovering the secret and origin of life.

No one can read those lectures and fail to deeply regret that their author could not have lived to more perfectly digest and assimilate the vast stores of knowledge and material that he had gathered together by unwearied study, travel and exploration during a long life. He has left behind him a museum at Harvard that Prof. Tyndall said was not excelled in the old world, and that Agassiz himself regarded as his monument.

One of the cardinal theories of AGASSIZ was that all life retained its original type, whatever that might be, and never developed into anything different. In this theory he relentlessly antagonized the evolution theory of the Darwin school, a school that maintains that even man himself is an outgrowth and development after millions of years of a lower animal, a school, by the way, that has numerous and learned champions to defend it. Unlike very many scientific men, he claimed that the personal relation of a Creator to the universe was established by rigid demonstration on a truly scientific foundation. This he claimed, not as a professor of religion, for he was not a professor, but simply as a Scientist.

AGASSIZ was born in 1807, in Switzerland, and consequently was in his 67th year. As early as 1836 he was elected a member of the Academy of Sciences in Paris. He was the friend and co-laborer of the great Humboldt for years, and also of Cuvier. His attainments while yet a youth were incredible. There were no bounds to his zeal. He was a lover of knowledge and great as was his ardor it was secondary to his patience and thoroughness. The great problems of the earth and the water were his study from youth to old age and perhaps no mortal ever saw deeper into the arcana of nature or stood nearer to the unattainable in knowledge. The whole world will deplore his loss. Great men will feel that a light has been put out that was leading them deeper than they could travel alone into the mysterious confines that separate the known from the unknown.

### MARTIN'S FERRY.

(By our old Employee.)  
River towns, perhaps, above any others, are seldom able to account for themselves, that is, for their origin, and it is often but little account one can get of their history. For our present purpose we need not know exactly how a town came to be located on the site of Martin's Ferry. It might have been Mr. Martin that built a little flat and ferried over the river such of the pioneers as came his way, hunting lands in the West, or it might have been the store keeper at that early day, the royal country merchant dealing principally in powder and lead and the skins of wild beasts. As either, he might have given the place a name. We are not particular on that score; have not much faith in early histories anyway. We didn't find anybody old enough to tell us about it, and if we had just as likely as not, we would have been told little lies. The town of Martin's Ferry is nearly as old as Wheeling. For many years it was a sort of resting place where people that had but little means stayed—a sort of standstill, from which, like the venerable Mr. Micawber, they watched and waited for something to turn up. It was always a pretty location, and evidently a favorite resort of some ancient race, as attested by one of those pre-historic mounds which are here and there scattered up and down the Ohio Valley. For our purpose it is only from the time that the O. & P. Railroad with its shrieking engines disturbed its normal quiet, that it has for us a practical history. At that date Wheeling itself was only just beginning to shake off the Upan influence of anti-familism; had not learned to endure the greasy mechanic and thus it happened that those small capitalists, who are ever seeking for some point from which to make a start, were attracted to this favorable location. Just about this time

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## BY TELEGRAPH.

### ASSOCIATED PRESS REPORT

Exclusively to the Intelligencer.

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### CHARLESTON.

Further Excitement over the Capital Question.

(Special Dispatch to the Intelligencer.)

CHARLESTON, Dec. 15, 1873.

There was a renewal of the excitement over the Capital question to-day. It is now the absorbing question of the hour. The bill repealing the appropriation to Bethany College was ordered to its engrossment in the Senate to-day. The Federal Court arrived to-day.

TOMAHAWK.

Letter from the Secretary of the Treasury to Mr. Dawes.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 15.—The Secretary of the Treasury has written the following letter to Mr. Dawes, Chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means:

TREASURY DEPARTMENT, Dec. 12.

DEAR SIR—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of this date transmitting the resolution of the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives, asking the Secretary of the Treasury to give his reasons in writing for an increase in taxation, and why he has selected the articles named in his communication as proper objects for increased tax, and that he informs the committee specially as to the expenditures and condition of the revenue which renders the proposed increase necessary.

THE SECRETARY EXPLAINS.

In the report, which in accordance with law I had the honor recently to submit to Congress, I used the following language: "Should there not be a revival of business at an early date and an increase in the receipts over those of the past two and a half months additional means will be required to meet the expenses. Should such be the case, I recommend an additional taxation judiciously laid, so as to be the least burden upon the people and business of the country, rather than resort to borrowing money and increasing the public debt."

DID NOT WANT TO GO IN DEBT.

It is on the grounds here generally stated that I suggested an increased taxation. The receipts from customs and internal tax have not materially increased and it is apparent no considerable augmentation of those receipts is soon to be expected under the law now existing. The public debt was increased by demands which could not be avoided during the month of Nov., to the extent of over \$9,000,000, and it is apparent that it will be still further increased during the current month by many millions. While coin receipts are but little more than sufficient to pay the interest on the public debt and other coin expenditures, it will not be prudent to sell gold to increase the supply of currency.

\$18,000,000 RESERVE GONE.

The current expenses of the Government have already consumed about \$18,000,000, which can be used before the extreme limit of the issue of United States notes authorized by law will be reached. The public credit can only be maintained by keeping the receipts of the Treasury fully up to the expenditures for ordinary expenses, for interest on the public debt, and in the purchase of bonds, for a sinking fund to the extent provided by law.

THE PUBLIC CREDIT AT STAKE.

It is manifestly the true policy in view of maintaining that credit to levy a tax so as to make it certain that the required amount will be raised, with a probability of some surplus revenue, rather than to incur any risk of a deficiency, which would make it necessary to borrow, and thereby increase the debt.

WIT COFFEE AND TEA WAS SELECTED.

In selecting tea and coffee for taxation, I am influenced by consideration that taxes on those articles are easily collected, and are not oppressive to consumers.

SPIRITS, TOBACCO, GAS, ETC.

In selecting spirits, tobacco, gas, railroads and steamboat receipts, express, insurance, and telegraph companies, as subjects of taxation, I am governed principally by reasons expressed by the Commissioner of Internal Revenue in his letter already forwarded to the Committee in the following words: "Selecting sources for possible tax, have taken those that would give the revenue probably needed, without any material increase, to prevent amendment to present system, considering it wise to get public revenue with as little interference as possible to the general business of the country, and that taxes gathered should meet the public eye as rarely as practicable. I have presented bills for increased taxation to the Committee thus early that the subject may at once be called to the attention of Congress for such action as an early day as may be deemed expedient. It should be taken into account that the effect of any law which may be enacted to increase taxation will not appear for several months after its passage, and that in the apparent disposition among the people to reduce the expenditures, the rates which may be fixed, will not produce the same amount of revenue as would otherwise accrue under different circumstances."

I have the honor to be very respectfully,

WM. A. RICHARDSON, Sec'y.

Postoffice Robbed.

INDIANAPOLIS, Dec. 15.—The postoffice at Marion, Ind., was entered and robbed of some postage stamps, currency and a package of letters, Saturday night. The thieves attempted to burn the office, but the fire was discovered in time to save it.

Steamer put in Commission.

BOSTON, Dec. 15.—The steamship Franklin was placed in commission this afternoon. The Franklin will doubtless be the flagship of the Cuban squadron, of which Admiral Porter will probably have command.

## CONGRESS.

### SENATE.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 15.

PRAYING FOR CARPENTER.

The Chaplain, in his opening prayer this morning invoked the Divine blessing upon the President pro tem of the Senate.

ABSTENTION INSTEAD OF WAR.

Mr. Sumner presented a petition of citizens of Pennsylvania asking Congress to take steps to provide for settling international difficulties by arbitration instead of war. Said petition was in reference to resolution of the British House of Commons.

THE LOUISIANA CASE.

Mr. Morton, from the Committee on Elections, submitted a report that the Committee had considered the Louisiana contested election of P. B. Pinchback and Gen. McMillan, both of whom claimed seats as Senators from Louisiana, and were evenly divided. He therefore asked that the whole matter be referred to the Senate.

PINCHBACK'S CREDENTIALS.

Mr. Morton then introduced a resolution that the credentials of Pinchback are formal and he is entitled to a seat in the Senate, having a prima facie case, and gave notice that to-morrow, after the morning hour, he would ask the Senate to consider his resolution.

THE RESOLUTION GOES OVER.

Mr. Sanbury thought that the Senate should have time to examine the facts of the case. Conkling inquired if the committee had reported the evidence taken in regard to Pinchback. Morton replied that they had taken no evidence. He introduced the resolution as to question of rights. After debate the resolution went over.

FINANCIAL MATTERS.

Mr. Sherman called up the resolution reported by him from the Finance Committee Wednesday in regard to present derangement of the finances.

INFLATION ADVOCATED.

Mr. Pratt addressed the Senate in favor of inflation of the currency. The resolution, presented a petition from ship owners touching the Geneva award. The petitioners claim that during the rebellion they were engaged in commerce on the high seas and vessels belonging to them were destroyed by other rebel cruisers than the Alabama and those named by the petitioners. They claim that they were entitled to a part of that award. Referred.

Mr. Sherman from the Committee on Finance reported back the House bill to provide for the redemption of the loan of 1868. It was passed with several unimportant amendments.

THE RESOLUTION REPORTED BY MR. SHERMAN FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE WEDNESDAY LAST WAS THEN TAKEN UP.

WEARY IN FAVOR OF FREE BANKING LAW.

Mr. Ferry of Michigan, offered as a substitute the resolution recently introduced by him directing the Finance Committee to report such measures as would establish a free banking system, increase the volume of currency to \$100,000,000, and making the whole currency of government issue.

The views of the minority as reported by Mr. Bayard on Wednesday were read. Mr. Pratt addressed the Senate.

MORTON DESIRES TO BE HEARD.

Mr. Morton said he would like to be heard on this subject but was not prepared to speak, and therefore asked that the resolution should go over until to-morrow.

Mr. Sherman had no doubt that the Committee on Finance was prepared to carry into execution the will of the Senate, but he thought it a difficult proposition to manage, and when, specie payment should be resumed.

The resolution laid over.

The bill to authorize the organization of national banks without circulation was taken up.

Mr. Morton favored the passage of the bill, and Messrs. Merriam and Bayard opposed.

Without taking a vote the Senate went into executive session and soon after adjourned.

HOUSE.

The following bills were introduced on call of States:

By Mr. Keiser.—To prevent shipping on the Atlantic from destruction by Eastern gales. Also for better preservation of harbors, channels and lakes.

By Mr. Kelley.—For the issue of convertible bonds and reduction of interest on the funded debt.

At the session of the Judiciary Committee, reported a bill for the repeal of the bankruptcy law and moved to suspend the rule and pass it. The question is now pending.

At the session of the Ways and Means Committee, Judge Kelly offered a resolution which he said he would introduce to the House to-day, the effect of the money now needed by the Government should be raised by temporary loan at low rate of interest.

The Ways and Means Committee in view of the Secretary of the Treasury's letter agree to report resolutions to the House to-day, and the President to order a revision of the estimates by the head of the various departments, in order that the apparent necessity for additional taxation may be obviated. The committee say that the estimates recently submitted were all made up several months ago before the financial disturbance and before it was known that the Government revenues were likely to fall short.

The total number of bills introduced to-day were three hundred.

MEMORIAL FROM THE DRUGGISTS.

Mr. Rogers presented the memorial of over 3,000 druggists and chemists asking for the repeal of the stamp tax on medicine, or a modification of the law so as to confine the tax to patent or proprietary medicines. Referred.

JUDGE BURFORD, OF ALA.

Mr. Hoar offered a resolution instructing the Judiciary Committee to inquire and report whether the action of the House is required concerning the official conduct of the Judge of the U. S. Court for the District of Alabama, and especially whether the Judge has held the terms of Court required by law, and whether he has continuously and persistently absent himself from the State, and whether his acts and omissions in his office of Judge have been such as in any degree to deprive the people of that State of the benefit of the District Court therein and to amount to a denial of justice. Adopted.

THE MAINS BILL.

The first section of Tremaine's bankruptcy bill repeals the bankruptcy law, and all its amendments. The second section provides for the District of Alabama, and especially whether the Judge has held the terms of Court required by law, and whether he has continuously and persistently absent himself from the State, and whether his acts and omissions in his office of Judge have been such as in any degree to deprive the people of that State of the benefit of the District Court therein and to amount to a denial of justice. Adopted.

CLEVELAND MARKET.

CLEVELAND, Dec. 15.—Grain—Quiet and nominally unchanged; receipts fair. Petroleum—Quiet and firm; 12c for standard white; car lots.

ALL QUIET IN HAVANA.

HAVANA, Dec. 15.—The city is quiet. No further news regarding the Virginia. Lieut. Palmer, of the United States Marine Corps, arrived from Key West, and leaves Wednesday for Santiago de Cuba with dispatches for the American naval commander at that port.

## FOREIGN.

### THE LONDON TIMES DECLINES.

LONDON, Dec. 15.—Reginald has sent a letter to the Times complaining of his treatment by the Bazarin court martial, offering to explain his conduct to a representative of the Times and two other English editors. The Times declines.

THE EX-EMPEROR AFFECTED BY THE RESULT.

EMPEROR EUGENE was so affected by the result of Bazarin's trial that the postmaster of his visit to Queen Victoria was necessary.

THE JOURNALS IN THEIR OBITUARY NOTICES AWARD PRIZES TO JUDGE NELSON AND FROST.

A QUEEN DOWAGER DEAD.

BELGIAN, Dec. 15.—Elizabeth, Queen Dowager of Prussia, is dead. Age 73 years.

BRUNE, Dec. 15.—Dr. O. Schenck has been elected President and Dr. E. W. Elitz, Vice President, of the Swiss Confederation.

DEAD.

LONDON, Dec. 15.—Winterbottom, member of Parliament for Stroud, and Under Secretary for the Home Department, is dead.

WASHINGTON.

AN INCREASE OF \$5,000,000 SINCE THE FIRST OF DECEMBER.

WASHINGTON, December 15.—Secretary Richardson, in a letter to Representative Dawes, reiterates his previously expressed views that it is better to obtain any necessary money by taxation than by a loan. He says he selected coffee and tea because the public would feel the tariff on these articles less than on any other, and as to articles of taxation pertaining to the Internal Revenue Bureau the money collected can be collected without any additional expense to the Government. The Secretary, to-day, after the necessary examination, ascertained that the public debt has increased since the first instant \$5,000,000.

U. S. VESSELS AT SANTIAGO DE CUBA.

The Canadagua, Junata and Kansas were at last accounts at Santiago de Cuba. It is understood that these vessels will receive the assignment and command of the Virginia, while that vessel will be delivered perhaps at Bahia Honda, although nothing trustworthy on this point can now be obtained from official sources. To-morrow is the time fixed for the consummation of the agreement.

NOMINATIONS SENT IN.

The President sent the following nominations to the Senate to-day: Hiram Kilgus, postmaster, Fort Wayne, Ind.; O. F. Hicks, postmaster, Massillon, Ohio; John G. Poole, Collector of Customs for the District of Sandusky, Ohio.

ASSIGNMENT OF COMMITTEE WORK.

The House Committee on Appropriations to-day allotted work as follows: Loughridge, Parker and Hancock are charged with the preparation of the Indian appropriation bill; O'Neil with pension; Swann with diplomatic and consular; Starkweather, fornications; Marshall, military academy; Wheeler, army; and Hall, naval appropriation bill. The deficiency supply bill, making appropriations for legislative, executive and judicial expenses of the government, was not assigned to any one by the Chairman.

NEW YORK CITY.

THE INTERNATIONALS.

NEW YORK, Dec. 15.—The Federal Council of Internationalists here reported at the platform and resolutions of the workmen's meeting Tuesday night last.

A LONG TERM.

John McDermott, who killed his wife some time ago and pleaded guilty of murder in the 2d degree, has been sentenced to the State prison for life.

MARK OF RESPECT.

The courts adjourned to-day as a mark of respect to the memory of the late Judge Nelson.

Weather Report.

FOR NEW ENGLAND AND THE MIDDLE ATLANTIC STATES, partly cloudy weather, with less pressure and but slight changes of temperature will prevail, winds gradually shifting to southerly, with increasing cloudiness.

For the South Atlantic States and through the west to the lower Missouri Valley, light rain on the coast. The weather continuing partly cloudy, with light rains on the coast.

For the Ohio Valley and lake region, the pressure will diminish, with increasing cloudiness.

For the Northwest, generally clear weather, with southeasterly to southwesterly winds during the greater portion of the day.

The Last Hours of Agassiz.

BOSTON, Dec. 15.—The last hours of Prof. Agassiz were spent in unconsciousness. At 1 p. m. Monday he had an attack similar to the one experienced before suspension of respiration, which continued a half minute, accompanied by other indications of approaching dissolution. The pulsations, succeeded by unusually rapid breathing, continued to grow fainter with his departing vigor. The patient lay upon his side, and beyond an occasional convulsive movement of the limbs there were no signs that he suffered any pain and the finale was scarcely perceptible. Flags are at half-mast in honor of his memory.

FUNERAL OF AGASSIZ.

The funeral of the late Prof. Agassiz will take place in College Chapel, Cambridge, at half-past two Thursday and will be public.

A Young Lady that Missed a Gold Medal.

NEW YORK, Dec. 15.—Prof. Proctor, the English astronomer, at a reception Saturday night, alluded to the fact that the Astronomer Royal has opposed the award of a gold medal to Miss Mitchell, on the ground that although she had discovered a comet, she had neglected to send the news of its discovery by the first mail. Prof. Proctor predicted a wonderful scientific future for America.

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